

The Transforming Power of Scripture Memory!

Encouragement and Tips

14th Sunday after Pentecost / 13th Sunday after Trinity – 2012

Sunday, September 2 → 8:00 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, last week I shared some of the benefits of memorizing Scripture: →Transformation, →Guidance, and →Christian Living; *we also heard how God used Scripture memory to transform the life of Dawson Troutman – even my own life!* In this sermon I will share ♦some additional encouragement as well as ♦the actual steps to follow to memorize Scripture.

1. **Some Real-Life Encouragement:**

- a. Chuck Swindoll: “I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture.... **No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends!** →Your prayer life will be strengthened. →Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. →Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. →Your mind will become alert and observant. →Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. →Your faith will be solidified.”¹

¹ <http://www.bibleonthebrain.com/2011/01/chuck-swindoll-on-memorizing-scripture.html>

b. Hank Hanegraaff: “If there is one thing preserved in the text of Scripture, it is the injunction to record God’s words upon the tablet of your heart. One of the best things that happened to me as a new believer was being told that all Christians memorize Scripture. By the time I found out that not all of them do, I was already hooked. Now, as I look back, I can truthfully say that nothing compares with the excitement of memorizing Scripture.”²

2. **Scripture Memory Tips:**

- a. Read the context of the verse (at least a few verses *before* and *after* the verse you are planning to memorize).
- b. Rightly understand the verse (consult a Study Bible, a Bible commentary, a pastor).
- c. Learn the reference and the first phrase (say it over and over again).
- d. Add a phrase; then repeat all you have learned.
- e. Say the verse out loud (whenever you can) as you memorize it.
- f. Say ♦the reference, ♦the verse, and ♦the reference again (then you will memorize the reference).
- g. Pray about the verse.
- h. Apply the verse to your life.
- i. Share the verse with others.

3. **Scripture Memory Tips – Applied to Ephesians 2:8-9:**

² <http://hankhanegraaff.blogspot.com/2010/04/writing-word-on-tablet-of-your-heart.html>

- a. Read the context of the verses:
 - i. **Death (vv. 1-3): Spiritually dead**; objects of wrath.
 - ii. **Life (vv. 4-9): God's action** to make us alive in Christ.
 - iii. **Good Works (v. 10): Created in Christ** Jesus **to do good works**.
- b. Rightly understand the verse (Study Bible, commentary, etc.).
- c. Learn the reference and first phrase (say it over and over): ^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith;
- d. Add a phrase; then repeat all you have learned:
Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
- e. Say the verse out loud as you memorize it:
Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.
- f. Say the reference, the verse, and the reference again (then you will memorize the reference):
Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- g. Pray about the verse: *Dear Father in heaven, thank You for loving me and saving me, even though I have sinned and deserve Your wrath. Since You have given me the gift of faith to believe in Jesus as my Savior, help me to never*

boast but thank and honor You throughout my life!

- h. Apply the verse to your life: I know I deserve the worst, *but I have the best as a gift through Jesus!* Therefore, *I am so thankful and desire to tell others the good news about Jesus!*
- i. Share the verse with others: You could say: I'm trying to memorize this verse, would you check my accuracy?

4. **Memory Verse Selection:**

- a. Choose verses you already know – *like the ABC verses or others you are somewhat familiar with*: Galatians 3:27; John 3:16; Psalm 51:10-12 (Offertory); John 1:29 (Agnus Dei); Numbers 6:24-26 (Benediction).
- b. See Bible Topics 1 and Bible Topics 2 – *brochures*. Choose a verse that applies to an area of your life **OR** one that others desperately need to hear!

5. **Memory Verse Review:** It is essential to keep *practicing, living, and sharing the verses you memorize!*

- a. Write down the references; use today's insert.
- b. Build your own "Helpful Bible Verses" brochure; it's available with this sermon on our website.

Conclusion: Challenge: Memorize one verse *each month!*

Super Challenge: Memorize one verse *each week!* The results: God will ♦strengthen you, ♦guide you, and ♦use you in many wonderful ways! And all God's people said: **Amen!**

For Much More: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Live God's Word; then share it with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!

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